



## CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR HAWAI'I

Testimony Submitted to the Honolulu City Council

Wednesday, April 24, 2012  
10 am

Support for Bill 10

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Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports Bill 10, which will encourage people to use reusable bags when shopping.

CCH is dedicated to protecting native Hawaiian plants, animals, and ecosystems for future generations. We are very concerned about the harm to seabirds, sea turtles, monk seals, dolphins, and whales caused by plastic bags and other marine debris. Plastics of all kinds kill over a million seabirds and 100,000 other marine animals each year due to ingestion and entanglement.

Bill 10 will help reduce solid waste in our landfills as well as litter on the land and in the ocean. We also appreciate the energy savings that would be realized by reducing the number of single-use checkout bags manufactured for, and shipped to Hawai'i.

Bill 10 is consistent with local policies to reduce single-use disposal bags in Kaua'i, Maui, and Hawai'i counties. Honolulu is the only county in Hawai'i that does not have a ban on single-use plastic bag in place, yet O'ahu uses the most.

The Surfrider Foundation and others note that plastic bags are the most common consumer item on Earth, and each person goes through about 400-500 per year. These bags are used for an average of 15 minutes, yet they persist in the environment for more than a hundred years.

Bill 10 bans only the most common checkout bags and not ones used for vegetables, meats, fish, nuts, newspapers, dry cleaning, pet waste or garbage.

Please support Bill 10. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Ziegler



*Hawai'i's Voice for Wildlife – Ko Leo Hawai'i no na holoholona lohiu*

Telephone/Fax 808.593.0255 • email: [info@conservehi.org](mailto:info@conservehi.org) • web: [www.conservehi.org](http://www.conservehi.org)

P.O. Box 2923 • Honolulu, HI 96802 • Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 220 • Honolulu, HI 96814

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